

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

September 20, 2012

Present:

**Carl Brunetti William DiBiasio Mike Babbitt Richard Foster
Domenic Ricci Maria Marcello Hagop Jawharjian Bob Turner**

Absent:

Paul DiDomenico

Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:33 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Domenic Ricci, to change the order of the agenda so that the Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond, who was present at the meeting, could speak to the Board regarding the progress of capital projects.

Status of Municipal Capital Projects

The Barney Pond Dam project is going well, and the Administrator may be requesting funding to enhance the project in the coming budget.

The contract for the resurfacing and repair of roads has been

extended until the Town can go to bid again.

The prices are being held at the previously bid prices from 2 years ago.

They will also be completing some curbing and redesigning.

There are separate bids for drainage and curbing which last for a year.

The Fairlawn Roof Repairs are complete within budget.

Blackstone Valley Prep is not paying for those improvements because their lease is a short-term, 3-year lease.

They did however pay for bathroom and kitchen upgrades.

There were HVAC issues discovered when the schools turned the Fairlawn building over to the Town.

The Administrator and Budget Board discussed the upkeep of the schools and disclosure of problems with the facilities.

The New Senior Bus has not been ordered yet because the Town has changed a spec of the bid due to problems in the handicap lift in the current bus which they would like to improve upon in the next one, and they will be going through RIPTA for the order.

The Lime Acres project was broken down into individual projects and came in higher so the Town is now putting it into one project for a single bid.

DEM is involved because the basketball court is being moved and there are wetlands in the area.

The DEM Permit will be ready within about a week.

The Bocce Court Canopy will be installed, and came in considerably under budget.

The Library Addition will be breaking ground as proposed, and they may be requesting more in the budget next year for additional items such as furniture.

For the Quinnville project, they have split bids for the basketball court and playground equipment and the overgrown tree maintenance.

When they fully examined the existing playground they realized it needs more work than they realized at first, and will be requesting funding for upgrades to it next year.

The School St. Park will have trees removed, excavation and they are bidding for the walkways and the plumbing and electrical work.

Legislative Changes Affecting the Town

The Administrator and Budget Board discussed Twin River Legislation.

The rate of payout that Twin River gives to the Town is decided by the General Assembly and Voters.

Currently, The Town is receiving 1.45% of the VLT revenues.

If the Towns revenues fall beneath \$8 million, a clause will go into effect that will change the amount they receive to 1% of their

revenues on the table games for the next 4 yrs.

The General Assembly would then negotiate at that point, and could rescind the amount received by the Town at any time.

Twin River are anticipating revenue losses when casinos are opened in Massachusetts.

It was noted that under state legislation, Twin River is not allowed to build a hotel or parking garage, and also are not allowed to change the height of their current structure.

The Town Council will be holding an informational meeting on October 4th regarding Twin River.

Progress on OPEB

Changes in the long-term include increased years required to work in order to receive benefits for new employees.

Also, any teachers who are not vested will not receive the medical plan as they would be eligible for MediCare.

They have settled a contract, and have made changes but still have more to make in the long term.

The OPEB funds are in a collaborative state trust fund.

A new actuary has been brought in by the Town this year.

OPEB \$ in collaborative state trust fund

The Town Administrator adjourned from the meeting.

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Domenic Ricci, to return to the regular order of the meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 15th were distributed for review.

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian, to approve the minutes.

The minutes were accepted by a vote of 7-0 with Bob Turner abstaining because he was not present on May 15th.

Correspondence

The Budget Board received the schools' monthly report and discussed any extra revenue that comes in, which is controlled by the schools as the Budget Board only determines local appropriation.

It was noted that the portions of the budget presentation are still inconsistent despite the Uniform Chart of Accounts conversion.

Public Comment

There was no public comment or questions at the time.

Old Business

Status of School Department Capital Projects

The Budget Board discussed resolutions and what should happen to excess funding from resolutions that was not needed.

In particular, they discussed a road that had been completed around Central Elementary which was more than had been budgeted to only complete a partial area as scoped by the Budget Board, and they questioned where the extra funding came from.

It was noted that not all capital projects that were budgeted have been completed, and some have been encumbered.

Status of Technology Plan Implementation

The schools provided a complete list of the Technology Plan implementation, and it appeared that everything has already been done or will be done within about a month with the exception of the state wireless fiber optic system which is still a work in progress.

School Department 5 Year Capital Plan

The Superintendent noted that the Capital Plan had to go before the state to be approved before it was presented to the Budget Board, but did send a copy of agreements with the state regarding emergency funding.

Open Budget Board Positions

The Budget Board currently has vacant positions for members from the Saylesville and Manville areas which they will be seeking to fill.

New Business

Nomination/Election of Budget Board Officers for 2012-2013

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by William to nominate Carl Brunetti as Budget Board Chair.

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, to close nominations for Budget Board Chair.

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt to nominate Hagop Jawharjian as Budget Board Vice Chair.

Richard Foster made a motion, seconded by Carl Brunetti, to nominate William DiBiasio as Vice Chair.

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, to close nominations for Budget Board Vice Chair.

Hagop Jawharjian was elected Vice Chair by a vote of 5-2.

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian, to nominate Domenic Ricci as Budget Board Corresponding Secretary.

Richard Foster made a motion, seconded by William DiBiasio, to close nominations for Budget Board Corresponding Secretary.

Appointments to Budget Board Sub-Committees

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, to remove Subcommittee Appointments from the agenda for this meeting so that it could be addressed once the two vacant positions on the Board are filled.

Budget Board Meeting Schedule – Draft Review

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to remove the October 4th Budget Board Meeting from the schedule so that the Budget Board is able to attend a town-wide meeting regarding Twin River on that day.

It was also noted that there will be a Town Capital Committee Meeting on October 11th from 5:30 – 6:30, which a member of the Budget Board will be attending.

Public Comment

There was no public comment or questions at the time.

Adjourn

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Domenic Ricci, to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.